



Eastern MA NWR Complex Position Description: Trail Steward Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, Sudbury, MA



Who are we?

The Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex is comprised of eight national wildlife refuges (Assabet River, Great Meadows, Mashpee, Massasoit, Monomoy, Nantucket, Noman's Land Island, and Oxbow) with a headquarters building at Great Meadows NWR, a visitor contact station at Monomoy NWR, and a visitor center at Assabet River NWR which is located at 680 Hudson Road, Sudbury, MA.

The Assabet River NWR Visitor Center (Center) is a state of the art "green" building that offers the local community and tourists the opportunity to learn more about local wildlife and habitats, as well as the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Center is the primary location refuge visitors can obtain information about the Refuge, as well as the Eastern MA NWR Complex and the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). The Center also houses interactive, hands-on educational exhibits, a multi-purpose meeting room, and the Friends Group nature store. The trails are open year-round with Center hours of Thursday – Sunday, 10am-4pm.

Role of a "Trail Steward"

{All year round except limited time in winter}

- New volunteers are required to shadow an experienced volunteer at the front desk for at least 2 hours
- Interact with visitors when on the trails
- Enhance the enjoyment and safety of visitors to the refuge
- Notify Refuge staff of any law enforcement situations
- Communicate regularly with Refuge staff about problems seen on trails
- Possess a friendly demeanor
- Carry a small trash bag to pick-up litter on trails
- Encouraged to wear durable and comfortable footwear, and bring a pair of gloves, snack and water
- Limbing and trimming trees upon completion of hands-on training provided by staff
- Check trail and fill "Trail Form" for the following conditions
 - major obstructions (fallen logs, etc.)
 - minor obstructions (small branches, twigs, etc.)
 - encroaching branches or other vegetation that needs trimming
 - hazardous sharp branch ends that poke into the trail from the sides or from the ground
 - leaning or hanging trees or large branches over the trail
 - poor footing (loose gravel, erosional ruts, tripping hazards, etc.)
 - mud holes
- Committed volunteers will have the option to adopt and maintain a specific section of the refuge boundary

Time Commitment Required

- ✓ A commitment of 4 hours a month during the active seasons is needed
- ✓ Report to refuge staff BEFORE and AFTER each time trail is scouted
- ✓ Availability to be on-call after any major storms pass through the area

Optional: participate in "work parties" hosted by the Friends of Assabet River & Complex Refuges

Reasons to Volunteer

- ❖ Contribute to your local community by sharing with visitors what a special place the Refuge is
- ❖ Make new friends that share an interest in the outdoors
- ❖ Educate visitors about our treasured natural resources
- ❖ Help insure that a respect for the natural world is passed on to future generations
- ❖ Help visitors see how they can become stewards of nature
- ❖ Volunteers are greatly appreciated by the Refuge staff and we would be lost without you!

If interested, please contact Kizette_OrtizVanger@fws.gov or 978.562.3527 today!

~The more volunteers we have working with us, the more we can provide to the community~